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OREOMYRRHIS BORNEENSIS MERR. SP. NOV., AN INTERESTING ADDITION TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE MALAYAN FLORA

E. D. MERRILL

The discovery of a representative of the genus *Oreomyrrhis* Endlicher on Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in the Malayan region outside of New Guinea, adds another species to the rather remarkable list of plants now known from that mountain which must be considered as Australian types. It is, moreover, the first representative of this small genus to be found in the Malayan region, or for that matter in the Old World north of Australia. Other Kinabalu species indicating unmistakable Australian or Australian-New Zealand alliances include *Blechnum fraseri* Luer., *Ranunculus lowii* Stapf, *Drimys piperita* Hook. f., *Didiscus saniculaefolius* (Stapf) Merr., *Coprosma crassicaulis* Stapf, *C. hookeri* Stapf, *Nertera depressa* Banks, *Lagenophora gibbsiae* Merr., *Gaultheria borneensis* Stapf, *Euphrasia borneensis* Stapf, *Drapetes ericoides* Hook. f., *Patersonia lowii* Stapf, *P. borneensis* Stapf, *Centrolepis kanibaluensis* Gibbs, *Scirpus inundatus* Spreng., *Schoenus kinabaluensis* Stapf, and *S. melancostachyus* R. Br. Representatives of all the characteristically Australian genera of the above list, with the exception of *Coprosma* and *Drapetes*, and of *Oreomyrrhis*, have been found in the Philippines, but no representatives of the genera *Schoenus*, *Drimys*, *Didiscus*, *Drapetes*, *Patersonia*, *Centrolepis*, or *Oreomyrrhis* have been found in western Malaya, although some have been found in Celebes and in New Guinea, a distribution wholly to be expected of all of them.

***Oreomyrrhis borneensis* sp. nov.**

Herba caespitosa, glabra vel subglabra, usque ad 15 cm. alta; foliis longe petiolatis, in ambitu oblongis, usque ad 4 cm. longis et 1.5 cm. latis, bi-tripinnatim dissectis, segmentis numerosis, parvis, oblongis, acuminatis, 1 ad 2 mm. longis, 0.3 ad 0.5 mm. latis; pedunculis erectis, quam petiolis brevioribus, sursum parce pubescentibus, tenuibus; floribus paucis (circiter 10), breviter pedicellatis; fructibus oblongis, acuminatis, 3 ad 4 mm. longis, distincte cinereo-hirsutis, carpellis distanter 5-costatis.

A tufted perennial herb 8 to 15 cm. high, simple or with few basal



MERRILL: *OREOMYRRHIS BORNEENSIS* SP. NOV.

branches which are short and densely crowded, and covered with the persistent dry sheathing basal parts of the petioles, the plant glabrous or subglabrous. Leaves long-petioled, the petioles glabrous, slender, up to 10 cm. in length, the margins of the basal sheathing parts somewhat ciliate; lamina in outline oblong, 1.5 to 4 cm. long, 0.7 to 1.5 cm. wide, bi-tripinnately dissected, the segments small, rather rigid, oblong, numerous, 1 to 2 mm. long, 0.3 to 0.5 mm. wide, their margins sometimes very obscurely ciliate, apices acute to apiculate-acuminate. Peduncles shorter than the petioles, reaching a maximum length of 7 cm. in fruit, in anthesis not more than 3 cm. long and then much more pubescent than when in fruit, the hairs short, cinereous, never reflexed. Involucral bracts about 10, oblong-lanceolate, acuminate, somewhat pubescent, about 3 mm. long, 0.5 to 0.8 mm. wide. Flowers about 10, pinkish, short-pedicelled, much shorter than the bracts. Petals ovate to broadly elliptic-ovate, about 0.8 mm. long, the basal margins slightly ciliate. Fruits oblong, 3 to 4 mm. long, narrowed upward, acuminate, distinctly cinereous-hirsute with short hairs, the carpels distantly 5-ribbed, the pedicels very slightly or not at all elongated in fruit. Vittae as in other species of the genus, one under each furrow and two toward the commissure, the commissural side of the albumen merely slightly concave, not furrowed.

British North Borneo, Mount Kinabalu, Low's Peak, *Mrs. Clemens 10622* (type), *Topping 1687*, November 13, 1915, noted in two crevices near the summit, associated with *Carex*, altitude about 4,000 meters.

I have before me several New Zealand and Australian specimens of *Oreomyrrhis* representing as many different forms or varieties of *Oreomyrrhis andicola* Endl. as there are specimens. I cannot consider the Kinabalu specimen to be specifically identical with any of these forms, the several species described from Australia and from New Zealand having, by common consent, all been reduced to the South American *O. andicola* Endl., thus giving us but a single species of the small genus in the Old World. The species above described distinctly approaches a New Zealand form from Awatere, distributed by H. H. Travers as *Oreomyrrhis andicola* Endl. forma *tenuifolia*. It differs radically from this form, however, in its very long petioles; in its peduncles being shorter than the petioles, the New Zealand form having the peduncles much longer than the leaves; in its very short pedicels and in its cinereous-hirsute, not glabrous fruits.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXXVI

Oreomyrrhis borneensis Merr. sp. nov. *A*, an entire plant, natural size; *B*, a pinna, $\times 5$; *C*, a fruit, $\times 7$; *D*, cross section of a fruit, $\times 12.5$.